



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BISHOP ENCOURAGES LONG ISLANDERS TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT CHANGES TO PLUM ISLAND

Coram, New York—The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is holding a public comment period until September 28 concerning its consideration of Plum Island as a potential location for the new National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility, a Bio-Safety Level 4 facility.

“I encourage Long Islanders to join me in voicing strong opposition to placing a Bio-Safety Level 4 facility on Plum Island,” said Congressman Tim Bishop, who represents the Congressional district which includes Plum Island. “From the moment DHS became involved at the Plum Island Animal Disease Facility, I have received repeated assurances from the highest levels of the Department—including Secretaries Ridge and Chertoff—that it would not be a suitable location for BSL-4 research. However, it is important for DHS officials to hear from as many Long Islanders as possible that Plum Island should continue to serve our nation’s security needs in its current capacity.”

Five sites have been chosen to advance to the next phase in the competitive process to select the location for the proposed National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility. The next step in the selection process is to conduct an environmental impact statement (EIS) as part of the National Environmental Policy Act process. Plum Island, as a government-owned site, will be considered as one of the alternatives that are evaluated in the EIS.

Plum Island’s proximity to major metropolitan areas on Long Island and Connecticut make it an unsuitable location for BSL-4 research, which investigates highly infectious diseases that affect both animals and humans, such as the Ebola virus. Placing a prime terrorist target in such a highly populated area could have disastrous consequences.

DHS welcomes the public to submit comments, both oral and written, concerning Plum Island until September 28, 2007. All comments submitted during this period will be given equal consideration in defining the scope of the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility Environmental Impact Statement.

More information is available from DHS at http://www.dhs.gov/xres/labs/editorial_0762.shtm.

How to Submit Comments to DHS or Request Materials:

Include your name, address, organization information (if applicable) and email address.

Deadline: September 29, 2007

Email: nbafprogrammanager@dhs.gov
U.S. Mail:
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Science and Technology Directorate
James V. Johnson, Mail Stop #2100
245 Murray Lane, SW; Building 410
Washington, DC 20528
Toll-free Fax: 1-866-508-NBAF (6223) toll-free
Toll-free Voice Mail: 1-866-501-NBAF (6223) toll-free

Please let DHS know if you:

- Are submitting a scoping comment
- Want to be added to the mailing list
- Are requesting National Environmental Policy Act documents (i.e., draft EIS Executive Summary, complete draft EIS, final EIS Executive Summary; complete final EIS, Record of Decision)

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